

Downey Fire District-Mitigation Plan

The Downey Fire District is located at the South end of Bannock County and is predominately agricultural. The District covers approximately 172 square miles and the Department protects 314 homes with a value of \$15,658,000.00.

The Downey Fire Department is a volunteer department currently with 8 members including the Fire Chief. The Department responds to approximately 50 calls for service each calendar year.

The Department operates 3 brush trucks and a 5,000 gallon tender. The Fire Chief states that the equipment is in fair condition.

The Chief feels the Department could use some wildland fire training and has been discussing the need with the BLM. The Department could use more volunteers and a training officer. Recruitment and retention of volunteers is an ongoing issue.

The Department has no history of fire prevention programs. The limited number of volunteers and limited resources make providing these types of programs very difficult. The Department has not been involved in any fuels reduction projects but has had some discussion with the BLM about a project in the Swan Lake area.

The Department has a history of wildland fires on or near Federal lands and responds to several every year. The Swan Lake area has the greatest concentration of homes in the interface area and is a long response from Downey. Some discussion has taken place to acquire a light truck to place in the Swan Lake area and train additional volunteers in that area.

The Fire Chief was not aware of any homes near the District that were not included in a fire district.

Water resources currently used by the Department are the City water system, irrigation water Swan Lake and Hawkins Reservoir.

Fire Mitigation Goals

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| • Funding for new Fire Station | \$300,000.00 |
| • Collapsible water tanks | 4,000.00 |
| • Brush Truck (Swan Lake Area) | 60,000.00 |
| • Small Equipment (hand tools-saws, etc) | 5,000.00 |
| • Personal Protective Equipment | 5,000.00 |
| • Wildland Fire Training | 2,000.00 |
| • Fuels Reduction Project (Swan Lake) | |
| • County wildland fire code | |
| • County mutual aid agreement | |
| • Portable water supply | |
| • Become A Firewise Community | |

Fire Mitigation Actions

- Station Replacement and equipment upgrades- work with Federal Agencies to identify funding sources. Participate in training opportunities for grant writing and work with County, State and Federal Agencies to acquire needed funding.
- Fuels reduction programs-work closely with the BLM on the project in the Swan Lake area. Evaluate need for fire breaks on CRP land.
- Wildland fire training-work with the BLM on setting up training now available through the Eastern Idaho Technical College.
- Wildland Fire Code-participate with a Countywide group to draft and adopt a code.
- Mutual Aid Agreement-participate with other Fire Districts in the County to adopt a mutual aid agreement.
- Portable Water Supply-participate with other Fire Districts to acquire and share water tenders.

Downey Fire District**MODERATE**

Past Occurrence 4

Fuel Conditions 3

Population 1

Suppression 4

Suggested Mitigation Projects-Fuel reduction in the Swan Lake area(Currently working with BLM on Project)

Assessment Overview Report
Downey Fire District
Three Rivers Resource, Conservation and Development Area
June 2003

Profile of the District:

The Downey Fire District is a combined municipal and fire protection district. Downey is a small, slow growing community located on Old Highway 91 just east of Interstate 15. The topography of the District is mostly flat farm and ranch lands. There is little industry in the area that is primarily agriculturally based.

Organizational Structure

The District reports to the City Council and Fire District Commission, respectively. The District is in the process of restructuring and the chief and most of the firefighters are new. There is one chief, an assistant chief and two firefighters. All personnel are volunteers.

Facilities:

The District has one station with one bay that is two trucks deep. The District is looking for grant funds to build a new station with four bays in Downey. They would also like to build a two-bay station in the Swan Lake area.

Response Area:

The fire protection area includes agricultural, rangelands, wildland urban interface, residential, and business. The response area includes 267square. The District provides fire protection for Downey, Virginia and Swan Lake.

Budget and Funding:

The budget has remained steady from year to year with 100% of funding coming from taxes.

Grants:

The Fire District has received grant funds from the BLM, Forest Service rural assistance, the FEMA National Fire Plan and from fund raising. The District is in the process of becoming more familiar with the National Fire Plan and hopes to pursue grant funding in the future. The City has hired a grant writer and has already benefited from this action.

Records Management:

The Chief has just begun searching records for the District. Records are now being tracked for training and a computerized records management system is in the planning stages.

Firefighting Program:

The Downey Fire District has six personnel within the firefighting program that are volunteers. Fire response includes protection for structural protection, wildland fire suppression, HazMat assist only and good intent response. The District reports it responds to 125 calls annually. The area is at high risk for wildland urban interface fires and terrorist attacks. None of the firefighters are trained in wildland suppression. The District does have some adequate and reliable water sources including water mains, hydrants and bodies of water. The 10-minute place into action requirement is a capability of the District with scene size-up and exterior attack.

Firefighting Program Summary of Existing Resources, Assets and Needs

Existing Resources/Assets	Needs
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 1 Station, 1 Bay 2 Trucks Deep• Volunteer Personnel• 1,000 Structural/20 Wildland Total GPM Capacity• Manual Record Keeping System• Fire Response: Structural & Wildlands• 1 Structural/4 Wildland/Structural Vehicles	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Computer and Software• Computer/Software Training• New Station with 4 Bays (Downey)• Additional Station with 2 Bays (Swan Lake)• County Codes for Development/Driveway Access• Improve Roadway Maintenance• Grants for Underground Storage Tanks, Wells & Pumps• Dry Hydrants• Grants for One-time Purchases• Current NFPA Standards Manual & Testing Equipment

Hazardous Materials Program:

The Fire District does not have a HazMat response team. It will respond for scene stabilization only until a HazMat team arrives. The District has mutual aid agreements with the U.S. Forest Service and the BLM.

EMS Program:

The District does not provide EMS services. It will respond to assist if called.

Training and Certification:

Because the District is restructuring, at this time no minimums have been established for training and certification. The Chief is currently doing research on what the District will need to establish minimums.

Training and Certification Summary of Existing Resources, Assets and Needs

Existing Resources/Assets	Needs
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• None Identified	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Grants for In-house Training, Materials, Videos, Slides• AV Materials, Video Machine• Computers for CD-based Learning• Grants for Outsourcing Instructors

Communications:

Communication is dispatched through the Bannock County 911 dispatch center. Radio communication capacity is sufficient. All of the vehicles are equipped with radios but the District does not have a sufficient number of hand-held radios.

Communication Summary of Existing Resources, Assets and Needs

Existing Resources/Assets	Needs
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Responds to Remote Alarm Calls• Portable Radios• Radios in All Vehicles	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Upgrade all Personnel to Two-way Radios

Prevention and Inspection:

The District does not have Fire Code regulation enforcement capacity or fire cause and origin investigations process. If there is a cause or origin question, the State Fire Marshal's Office is called in for advice and investigation.

Prevention and Inspection Summary of Existing Resources, Assets and Needs

Existing Resources/Assets	Needs
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• None	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Grants for Personnel Training, Materials and Records Management

Public Education:

The District is looking at several options for offering public education at this time. The Chief indicated that this is important for public safety and understanding of hazards they might face.

Public Education Summary of Existing Resources, Assets and Needs

Existing Resources/Assets	Needs
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• None at This Time	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Grants for Personnel Training• Grants for Handout Materials and Presentations